सरकारी क्षेत्र के इस्पात संयंत्रों की जिन इकाइयों को 1990–91 में हानि हुई उनमें इंडियन आयरन एण्ड स्टील कम्पनी लिमिटेड (इस्को) और विश्वेश्वरैया आयरन एण्ड स्टील लिमिटेड (वी आई एस एल) है। 'इस्को' कच्चा लोहा, इस्पात और कास्ट आयरन, स्पन पाइपों का उत्पादन कर रहा है। वी आई एस एल इस्पात, लौह मिश्र और ढलवा लोहे का उत्पादन करता है। 1990–91 में सरकारी क्षेत्र की जिन इस्पात इकाइयों ने लाभ अर्जित किया उनमें स्टील अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड (सेल) और महाराष्ट्र इलेक्ट्रोस्मेल्ट लिमिटेड (मेल) हैं। "सेल" इस्पात और कच्चे लोहे का उत्पादन करता है और "मेल" इस्पात और लौह मिश्र का उत्पादन करता है।

(घ) "सेल" के प्रमुख इस्पात संयंत्रों का या तो आधुनिकीकरण (दुर्गापुर और राउरकेला संयंत्र) किया जा रहा है या आधुनिकीकरण (बोकारो और बर्नपुर इस्पात कारखाना) करने के लिए विचार किया जा रहा है। आधुनिकीकरण के फलस्वरूप प्रचालन के तकनीकी आर्थिक प्राचलों में सुधार, लागत में कमी और लाभदायकता में सुधार होने की सम्भावना है।

Steel production in secondary sector

667. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to raise the steel production in the secondary sector in the country;

(b) the amount of money likely to be spent for the purpose ; and

(c) whether the target for steel production is likely to be achieved by such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) In the new Industrial Policy, the iron and steel industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector. It has also been exempted from the requirements of compulsory licensing under the Industries (D&R) Act, 1951. Customs duty on imported scrap has been reduced from 35% to 10%. These measures are aimed at attracting sizeable private investment in the secondary steel sector and increasing production in this sector.

(b) The investment will depend on the nature and size of the projects taken up.

(c) Substantial increase in production in the secondary steel sector will help to meet the projected demand for steel in the country.

Distribution Net-work of SAIL

668. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to strengthen the distribution network ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in this regard ;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal for setting up some nodal stock yards in order to strengthen distribution net-work ; and

(d) if so, the names of the places where the stock yards are proposed to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The distribution network of the integrated steel plants for the sale of iron and steel is as follows :

	Stockyards	Consignment Agency	Extension Counter
SAIL .	45	8	3
VSP .	3	15	—
IISCO .	1	5	—
TISCO .	11	23	—

SAIL has been taking action from time to time to expand its distribution network to cater to the increasing sale of iron and steel materials to larger number of consumers spread throughout the country.

As a mesures to increase handling of materials through the major stockyards, SAIL is modernising them in the same location or in alternate location in a phased manner.